

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jason Shrake, 34, of Tomah, Wisconsin, was convicted of possessing and distributing child pornography today following a two-day jury trial in federal court in Madison. The jury deliberated for approximately two hours before returning the guilty verdict this afternoon.

On March 20, 2005, Shrake sent two videos of child pornography to an undercover FBI agent. Agents later executed a search warrant at his home and seized his computer and numerous CDs. Child pornography was found on his computer hard drive and several of the CDs. Several child pornography videos were also found on one of the CDs.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for March 29, 2007.

Shrake faces a maximum penalty of 30 years.

The charges against Shrake were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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